

## The 1983 Northeastern New Brunswick Survey:

an archaeological reconnaissance for historic sites in Caraquet Island, North Saint-Simon Bay, and the Grande Plaine of Miscou

by  
Albert Ferguson

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THE 1983 NORTHEASTERN NEW BRUNSWICK SURVEY  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE FOR HISTORIC SITES IN  
CARAQUET ISLAND, NORTH SAINT-SIMON BAY, AND  
THE GRANDE PLAINE OF MISCOU ISLAND

BY  
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The preparations and carrying out of these projects required the collaboration of a number of individuals and associations from the three locations visited.

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## INTRODUCTION

This is a preliminary report on the archaeological investigations undertaken in the northeastern part of Gloucester, N. B. during the summer of 1983. Three locations were visited by this author, assisted by a small crew. They were: Caraquet Island, "Baie de Saint-Simon-Nord", and "Grande Plaine" on Miscou Island. As well as complementing the ongoing Province archaeological resource inventory program, the three projects had more specific orientations towards finding early historic sites.

The projects took place between June 15 and August 9th and were funded by the Archaeology Branch of the New Brunswick Department of Historical and Cultural Resources. Additional funding was provided by the Northeast Sub-Agreement and by a New Brunswick/Quebec university student exchange program. Executive supervision was assumed by New Brunswick Provincial Archaeologist, Dr. C. J. Turnbull. Nancy Reid of the Historic Sites Branch of the New Brunswick Department of Historical and Cultural Resources was contracted to do the analysis of the historic artifacts collected.

## CARAQUET ISLAND

Caraquet Island (Fig. 1) near the northern New Brunswick coast in the Baie de Chaleur has not been the focus of previous archaeological investigations. Beside the possibility of finding traces of prehistoric human occupation on the island, vestiges of European origin, possibly associated with the fishing expedition in early colonial times, might also be found on it's shores.

The aims of this archaeological reconnaissance was to compile an inventory of all prehistoric and historic sites located on Caraquet Island and evaluate their potential as archaeological resources.

### PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Caraquet Island is a crescent shape island (Fig. 2) which forms the boundary between the Baie de Chaleur and Caraquet Harbour; one of New Brunswick's busiest fishing harbour. The island consists of a main body measuring approximately 2.5 km long and not exceeding 0.7 km in width. The long axis has a true East-West orientation.

Two sand bars or spits extend toward the southeast from the Island. Both are approximately 1 km in length and are joined to the island at the two extremities of its' long axis. The one that originates at the eastern extremity of the island has a West-Northwest - East-Southeast orientation and is known as Sandy Point. The one originating from Pointe du Nord-Ouest which is the western extremity of the isle is known as "Le Banc de l'île, and has a North-Northwest and South-Southeast orientation.

The main body of the island lies approximately 2 to 2.2 km north across the harbour from the community of Middle Caraquet with the tips of the two sand spits being approximately 1 km nearer. A shoal named "Roches du Cheval-Blanc" extends eastward from the Caraquet Island for approximately 3 km, towards the island of Pokesudie. Between the shoal and Pokesudie Island is the Caraquet Channel, a 2.5 wide channel which is the main entrance to Caraquet Harbour. A second entrance, used mostly by small fishing and pleasure crafts is located just to the west of Caraquet Island.

The topography of the island is relatively even, with a maximum elevation not exceeding 7.6 m A.M.S.L. (Above Mean Sea Level). The highest elevation is found at the northwest part of the island where 4 to 6 m high cliffs of bedrock rise above the Baie de Chaleur. It is the only occurrence of exposed bedrock on the island.

Soil deposits on the island were observed, in the course of this survey, to be of a sandy loam texture and appeared to be thickest on the Caraquet Harbour side where 1 to 2 m high eroding shore bank were examined. Comparatively, at the northwest side, the soil covering the rocky cliff and small headlands was noticed to be the same in texture, containing however, more rock debris but being considerably less in thickness of accumulation. Peat deposits eroding out to sea, replaces soil built-up on the Northeastern portion of the island.

The sand around the island varies from gray-brown along the southern shore, to light gray on the two sand spits and on part of the north shore. However, there is a crescent shaped storm beach of fine white sand located between two small rocky headland and measuring approximately 0.7 km in length. It is known locally as "La Petite Échourie" (Thériault 1983, pers.

comm). The two sand spits are similar in nature, both are littered with driftwood and recent cultural refuse. The only noticeable difference is that the western spit has more rocky shingles.

Geologically speaking, the island rest on Cliffton Formation sedimentary rock. They are shale, sandstone and conglomerate strattas, of Carboniferous age, found from the Nippesiquit River Valley to Miscou Island (Alcock 1935, p. 95).

Caraquet Island lies on the northern fringe of the Eastern lowland section, a subclassification of the Acadien Forest Region. This section occupies a large triangular area extending from south Central New Brunswick to the Gulf of St. Lawrence coastline and from Baie de Chaleur to Antigonish in Nova Scotia. The forest of this section is predominantly coniferous in character (Rowe, 1972, p. 115) - black and white spruce, tamarack and balsam fir were among the more noticeable species of trees on the Island, with white birch and trembling aspen complimenting, to a lesser extend, of the tree population. On the more exposed northern side of the island, white spruce appears to predominate though reduced in stature. A zone of deceased stands, probably victims of the exposed and salinized environment, borders the northern coastline. Some of the other types of vegetation noted on Caraquet Island in the course of this project were grass, hay, various types of berry bearing bushes, fern, different types of mosses, and heath shrubs of the Ericacea family.

No source of potable water was found to flow naturally on the island. The only source found is a shallow hand-dug well containing clear drinkable water. It is located near the shore not far from a house foundation at the southeastern side of the isle.

At the time this survey was conducted, no permanent habitation was located on the island. Two cottages are located on the island's south side. One is in an advance state of disrepair. Residents from across the harbour were observed coming over to dig for clams on the island's south shore.

An automated foglight stands at "Pointe du Nord Ouest". Large clearings, some still extending through the entire width of the island, are slowly being reclaimed by the surrounding forest. They are silent testimonies to a not too distant past when more cultural activities were taking place on Caraque Island.

One final and sombre note made on the physical condition of the isle is its relentless destruction by sea erosion. This was apparent all around the small island, except at the two points onto which the two sand spits are attached. This is evident; from wind driven storm beach pushing their way in, onto land, burying vegetation on the north side, to the unvegetated shore bank of the south side with soil and vegetation being constantly washed away. Dying trees were found toppled on the beach - their naked roots lying where not so long ago there was the land on which they had stood. At present no erosion rate has been calculated for Caraque Island. However, a land-submergence/sea level rise of 15 cm. per century is generally accepted for the Gulf of St. Lawrence Southern Basin (Grant 1970). One can only speculate on how many metres of land lost to the sea this translates into over a period of three to four hundred years.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Concrete evidence of prolonged or short prehistoric occupation have yet to be found in the Caraque Harbour region (Martijn 1968, Allen pers. comm. 1984). Nonetheless, there is little doubt that the area was at least visited by Indians in

prehistoric times. It would have provided the only safe haven, east of Nepisiguit Bay during rough weather for prehistoric people who travelled by canoe along the Baie de Chaleur southern coast. In historic times, local tradition holds that Micmac Indians used to camp at "Pointe à Brideau", just west of the Caraquet wharf (Ganong 1948:7).

The origin of the name Caraquet is lost in conjecture. The Micmac, which occupied the region at contact and in historic times, have no "r" in their language. However, Gagnong (1948) says that the name came from the Micmac word "Calaket" as the Indians still called the place at the time of his visit there in the early part of this century, but he also states that they did not know the meaning of the word (1948:8). Mr. Fidèle Thériault, a native of Caraquet, presently research historian with the New Brunswick Department of Historical and Cultural Resources, Archaeology Branch, has done considerable research into the early history of northeastern New Brunswick with special interest to his hometown. Mr. Thériault expresses doubts that Caraquet is of Indian origin and suggests that the name could be of Spanish origin. That it was a corruption of a name, given to the small island by Spanish-speaking Basque who were fishing and hunting whale in the nearby Gulf of St. Lawrence, in the latter part of the sixteen century or early seventeen century. Mr. Thériault goes on to point at the similarities between the word Caraquet with that of Caraquez, a Spanish name given to a bay in South America (pers. comm. 1984). The presence of Spanish Basque in the Gulf of St. Lawrence has been positively proven with the discovery and excavation of a Basque whaling station at Red Bay in the northern part of the Gulf. The site has been dated to the 1570's (Tuck, pers. comm. 1983). Eleven Basque ships are reported at Miscou in 1624 by Champlain (Trudel 1966:300). Although this is an interesting problem, we will not at this time dwell on the question further, leaving to interested scholars the task of unravelling this enigma.

The oldest written mention of Caraquet is found in a transcript of French tribunal proceedings, which took place December 18, 1664. The court was convened to settle a dispute concerning the right to use Caraquet as a harbour, between two competing groups of fishing vessel captains (found in the Village Historique Acadien historical document collection, Document Fiche "C", reproduction n.d.). The next mention was found in the 1672 publication of the book entitled "Description géographique et historique des costes de l'Amérique septentrionale", by Nicolas Denys, Governor of all the coast from Canso to Gaspé. In his work Denys gives a brief description along with a crude map of "Les isles de Caraquet" (Ganong 1948:9). On November 24, 1696 a grant of land at Caraquet, which includes half of the Island of Caraquet, was given to sieur Denis Riverin for the purpose of conducting fishing operations by Pierre Rey Gaillard who had married Françoise Cailleteau, widow of Richard Denys de Fransac, Nicolas Denys's son (Roy. 1928). Next there is l'Hermite's map of 1724 which shows Caraquet Island for the first time in a pronounced crescent shape as it appears today (Ganong 1948:10).

We now enter the period of recorded permanent settlement by Europeans around Caraquet Harbour, a period which spans possibly from early 18th century to the present. In his narrative of his travels, Smethurst says that in 1761 he visited with a Frenchman from Old France who was settled not far from the mouth of the small stream now called "Ruisseau Isabelle" in Middle Caraquet. Smethurst goes on to say that the gentleman in question, named Saint Jean, had been settled there for near fifty years (Ganong 1948:22). The first major influx of settlers came shortly after the years of the Acadian expulsion from their settlement in the Bay of Fundy area. Some refugees from the expulsion arrived in Caraquet around 1760 seeking non-occupied land to start a new life (Ganong 1948:12). A census dating 1761 reveals five persons on

Caraquet Island (Arsenault: 1983:557). There is however no further indication if any of these were island dwellers or staying there only during fishing season. The latter proposition is substantiated in the petition of Marcel Martin for Caraquet Island presented in 1821 by William Ferguson Esq. Justice of Peace and Deputy Land Surveyor, Saumarez Parish, Northumberland County. In this petition, Ferguson states: "The above named Island, contains 250 acres of land; about one half of that quantity fit for tillage - there has never been any permanent establishment thereon--." It is also stated in this petition that on Caraquet Island, the petitioner "hath erected a dwelling house, a fishhouse and other conveniences, to carry on the cod and herring fisheries in the vicinity - and has about two acres of land cut down and cleared" (Ferguson 1821). This would make it the first year-round establishment recorded for Caraquet Island. Other grant petitions followed in the mid 1850's by local Caraquet residents for portions of land on the eastern end of Caraquet Island (MacIntosh 1856). Permanent settlement was well established by the 1870's as is depicted in the relating of a murder which took place on the Island in 1874 (Friolet, 1978). They were, however, to endure only one or two more generations as year-round habitations on the island was abandoned in the early part of this century (Thériault, pers. comm. 1984).

#### PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

Previous professional archaeological work on Caraquet Island appears non-existent. In 1968 Charles Martijn, under contract by the Community Improvement Corporation of New Brunswick and the Historical Resources Administration (now New Brunswick Department of Historical and Cultural Resources), conducted a survey of the province's north shore, from the Restigouche River to Miscou Island, including the Caraquet Harbour region. However, his map shows that he did not visit Caraquet Island

and furthermore, that he found nothing around the harbour (Martijn, 1968). In 1970 a survey of the coastal region from Burnt Church to Shippagan Harbour was performed by Judy, Robert and David Keenlyside for the National Museum of Man. Although this survey did not include the Caraquet Harbour region, it is noteworthy for the large concentration of prehistoric sites discovered in the Tabusintac, Tracadie and Pokemouche River estuaries, a relatively short distance from this present study area (Keenlyside 1970, Keenlyside & Keenlyside 1976). The foregoing references concerned surveys which were primarily, if not solely, prehistoric in orientation. In 1976 at the request of the "Société historique Nicolas-Denys" and "Le Village Historique Acadien", a survey headed by Patricia Allen from the New Brunswick Department of Historical and Cultural Resources, was undertaken of the isles of Miscou, Lamèque, Taylor and Pokesudie, as well as the mainland shores of Caraquet Harbour, with special emphasis to historic resources inventory. The results of this survey was published the following year in "La Revue d'histoire de la Société historique Nicolas-Denys" (Allen et Turnbull, 1977). Nothing was found in the Caraquet Harbour region.

Follow-ups to these initial survey projects in other parts Northeastern New Brunswick were the survey for historical archaeological remains in the Burnt Church area (Allen 1980, Christianson & Ferguson 1981), and a survey testing program for historic locations (Bishop and Jefferson 1982).

On amateur contributions, the only note that could be found concerning Caraquet Island is the discovery of a large skull found on the shore of the isle in 1893 by the lighthouse keeper's son. After excavations by the lightkeeper, Mr. Gervais Lanteigne, a skeleton of unnaturally large dimension for a human was discovered. This story comes from a June 7, 1894 article entitled "Un Géant Sur l'Ile de Caraquet" from "Courrier des Provinces Maritimes" (Degrâce 1976).

## METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted by the author assisted by three university students from the 15 to 23 of June, 1983. The crew made use of a 5 m. aluminum boat powered by a 10 h.p. motor to ferry themselves and their equipment daily from the mainland, where their base camp was located, to the island. The island was first completely surveyed on foot by crew members divided in teams of two. Locations of sites encountered were plotted on field maps and assigned a temporary field designation. Surface collection, if any, was usually minimal at this stage. The sites were recorded on Maritime Archaeological Resources Inventory forms (Davis & Christianson 1981). Photographs of the sites were taken with a polaroid camera for instant prints, to attach to the form, and with a 35 mm camera for clear, colour archival slides.

The recording, surface collection and photography were only performed after the entire island had been thoroughly examined. There are three reasons why this was done. First, it was hoped that recording the sites when everybody was present would keep the data verbalization format standard. Secondly, in operating this way, we used the boat to get from one site to the next, therefore we had more carrying capacity for the surface collections than if we did all of our material collecting during the initial foot survey. Finally, we only had one polaroid and one 35 mm camera to do for the two crews.

A small aircraft was chartered for one afternoon to fly over the research area, looking for inland cultural features which would be undiscernable at ground level, and also to get a aerial shots of the island. Random shovel test at between 20 to 30 m intervals was carried out on any length of shorefront land deemed potentially promising. The entire Caraquet Harbour side was so treated; where conditions permitted of course.

Permission to trespass and to test promising locations was granted by the Federal Department of Transport who owns the western portion on which the foglight was located. Mr. Fidèle Thériault, staff of Archaeology branch, New Brunswick Department of Historical and Cultural Resources, was very useful in securing the same permission from the owners of the remainder of the island. Mr. Thériault, at this time, also recorded stories and legends concerning Caraquet Island.

#### SITE DESCRIPTIONS

##### CkDf17

This site is located at the west end of Caraquet Island. It is approximately 200 m southeast of the present foglight and 100 m northeast from where the western sand bar or spit is attached to the island. The site consists of three rectangular depressions and a hand-dug well. The well is located approximately 1 m inland from the shore bank. Two of the rectangular depressions are located approximately 25 m west of the well. The other depression is approximately 50 m to the east of the well. One shard of white ironstone has been collected off the beach in front of this site. It has a broad date range spanning from the 19th century to the present (Reid 1984). The location corresponds to Marcel Martin's establishment as depicted on an early map of the island (Burton 1836).

##### CkDf18

This site is located in a large clearing centrally located on the island's south side. Eight rectangular depressions, six of these grouped in pairs, are located haphazardly in an estimated 26,250 sq. m clearing. A small cottage, in an advance state of neglect, is located by the beach edge at the clearing eastern boundary. The 2 to 3 m elevation results in a well-drained

area with a commanding view of the harbour. A footpath links the large clearing to the Baie to Chaleur shore on the island's north side. Although the rectangular depressions were not estimated to be of relatively great antiquity; no more than 1 century old, it was hoped that this relatively attractive spot would have had invited earlier cultural activities of historic or prehistoric nature. It was with these poorly substantiated assumptions that a systematic shovel testing operation was initiated on a 30 m wide strip on top an approximately 200 m long treeless bank. Square shovel test of 50 cm x 50 cm were excavated in four rows. The rows were given a letter designation starting with letter "A" for the row closest to the shore, and the small excavation units were given ascending numbers starting with number "1" for the first unit of each row at the eastern end of the clearing. The rows were parallel and set approximately 10 m apart. They ran in a east-west fashion at approximately 290° (from Magnetic North). Datum was established on the southwest corner of the small abandoned cottage. Excavation Unit #A1 is located approximately 27 m, 260° (from M.N.) from datum. The shovel test units were dug, approximately 5 m apart, down to the orange-brown compacted subsoil, which was roughly at 40 cm of depth. No prehistoric cultural material was found. One concentration of historic artifacts area was encountered in our east to west progression. It is located approximately 100 m from the testing lines' starting point. It's dimensions can be estimated to be 35 m by 25 m with the long axis running in a north-south orientation. The only shovel test outside the concentration area and which had only a few number of specimens were units Nos. C2, A9 and A10. Almost all of the 70 artifacts collected at CkDel8, either in the test excavations or surface collected on the beach, fell into the mid 19th century to present time range (See Table 2). The only exception is CkDf18:21, a pipe stem fragment with a bore diameter of 5/64" which was dated early 18th century - "Although sample is too small to assure accuracy in date" (Reid 1984).

CkDf19

A small location centrally located on Caraquet Island's south shore, approximately 30 m east of the large clearing which has a small run-down cottage at it's eastern limit. The site consists of an "isolated" find. One fine earthenware sherd was found on the beach. It is possible that it was washed here from CkDf18 which is 60 m to the west, although no material was found between this find and the specimens found on the beach at CkDf18. The sherd was dated from mid to late 19th century (Reid 1984).

CkDf20

This site is located on the south shore of Caraquet Island, approximately 500 m west of a small circular pond situated on the island's east end. The site consisted of one rectangular depression with a large cement block inside it's perimeter. The depression sits in a 100 m wide clearing, approximately 40 m in from the shore. The clearing extends all the way around the island to the Bay de Chaleur shore. An area where dense raspberry bushes growth a few dekametres inland from the rectangular depression might indicate the location of an outbuilding. Two square shanked iron nails were collected; one being smaller than the other. Both are machine cut and are dated ca. 1815 to 1890 (Reid 1984). Four sherds of fine earthenware known as pearlware were also collected. The date range for this type of ware is ca. 1770 to mid 19th century. However, as Reid notes "these pieces are probably later than 1800 due to the quick treatment of the rim decoration" (1984).

#### CkDf21

Located on Caraquet Island's north side, the site consists of an alignment of stones and remains of a cast iron stove. The feature is approximately 20 m inland from the beach and sits on the northern extremity of the same clearing that CkDf20 is in. No artifacts collection was done at this location.

#### CkDf22

This site sits on the island's south side in a small clearing directly north (true North) from the mouth of Ruisseau Isabelle across Caraquet Harbour. It is approximately 250 m west of the small circular pond located at the isle's east end. The site consists of 2 rectangular depressions, 7 m apart. No cultural material was found on the surface or on the beach at this location.

#### CkDf23

CkDf23 is located at the east end of Caraquet Island, approximately 25 m west of the small circular pond. It consists of a 4 m x 3.5 m depression located approximately 4 m in from the south shore bank. A white spruce, estimated to be at least 60 years old, is now growing inside the depression. The area in the immediate vicinity of the depression is currently used as a camping ground as is suggested by the few recent surface hearth found, and the modern refuse which litters the surroundings. No historic artifacts were seen around or in the depression, or eroding out of the shore bank.

#### CkDf24

This site consists of an isolated find from the beach of the "Petite Échourie" on the island's north shore. A worked flake, possibly a crude scraper, was found by waters edge on the beach

sand. The prehistoric artifact is slightly waterworn. A close examination along the entire stretch of beach failed to reveal more culturally related material. The beachfront area, to the south, is boggy and is in the process of being buried by a wind and water deposited storm beach.

#### CkDf25

Four historic ceramic sherds were found at this location on the west sand spit, locally known as "le Banc de l'île". They were collected on the east side beach. It is most probable that they had been deposited there by sea action. Most had been considerably modified by exposure to salt water. One was considered undiagnostic for dating purposes. The other three are considered to be from the 20th century wares (Reid 1984).

#### CkDf26

This site is located on the Caraquet Harbour side of the island. It consists of one dark green case bottle glass fragment found on the beach a little distance from the bank. The location is approximately 500 m east, along the beach, from where the west sand spit connects to the island. No material was found eroding out of the nearby shore bank. No surface feature or material was located inland. The sherd showed effects of salt water modification, but still exhibits features which associates it with 18th century case bottles (Reid 1984).

#### CkDf27

This site consists of six specimens, one stoneware and five glass fragments, all found on the beach of the eastern sand spit, known locally as "la Dune de l'île", approximately 750 m east-southeast of the little circular pond at the east end of the island, and 350 m northwest from Sandy Point. All were dated to be 20th century material (Reid 1984).

## SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

Data recorded about the sites found during this survey are summarized on Table 1. A summary of the age range for each site is found on Table 2. A total of 10 locations were registered as resources in the course of this survey. One can be considered prehistoric, while the others are historic sites. Five of the ten sites, including the prehistoric location, are isolated finds (i.e. artifacts found on beaches). They are resources for which present deposit locations is considered secondary, while the primary or provenience location could neither be found nor identified along the shore banks or inland. Systematic test excavations were performed at one site - CkDf18.

Two resource locations were dated by ceramic analysis to be 20th century sites. Two were dated from 19th century to present. Three are predominately 19th century, and one is from the 18th century (Reid 1984). Three more historic locations are undated due to lack of representative cultural material. And finally, one site has been attributed, albeit on small evidence, to the vast prehistoric cultural time frame.

The result of the random shovel testing along the entire Caraquet Harbour side of the island was negative. The aerial survey also failed to unmasked the cultural features that might have been hidden by vegetation or located on the shallow surrounding sand and mud flats.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is evident from the results of this archaeological reconnaissance that traces of pre-expulsion acadian or early historic European presence on Caraquet Island were either of a superficial nature and did not leave enduring permanent

vestiges, or that erosion has obliterated all physical remains from it's shore. From the state of the island shores, as witnessed by this research team, the latter seems most probable. This is supported by the fact that the few evidences of pre 19th century occupation either of historic or prehistoric nature recorded in the course of this survey are beach finds. It is the opinion of this author that erosion, as it has at so many other coastal locations in the Maritimes, destroyed all traces of cultural activities of any significant antiquity from the shores of Caraquet Island. Therefore follow-up archaeological research on Caraquet Island is not recommended, unless researchers' interest lies in 19th century Acadian subsistence and settlement patterns or that new evidence from presently untapped archival sources can point to specific locations. However these locations would need to have been originally situated at a certain distance inland. On the other hand, valuable early historic data might lie in the watery depth of Caraquet Harbour and the surrounding Baie de Chaleur waters. Consequently underwater survey by competent researchers might arrive at the same results hoped for at the onset of this present study. Finally, pertinent information might also lie embedded in the tidal flats surrounding Caraquet Island waiting only the development of a retrieving and comprehensive interpretation method, which could be called "Intertidal Archaeology", to be harvested.

## NORTH SAINT-SIMON BAY

Our research for pre-nineteen century historic occupation brought us to a small bay centrally located between the "Baie de Chaleur" and the Gulf of Saint Lawrence on the Acadian Peninsula in northeastern New Brunswick. The Bay, named "Baie de Saint-Simon Nord", had not been the focus of archaeological investigations either of historic or prehistoric nature prior to 1983. Consequently, it was the only unchecked coastline area remaining between the Restigouche River and the Miramichi River. Furthermore, strong local folklore and legends, support just as strongly by early written records, historically links this location to sea operations which preceded one of the last naval engagements between France and England for the supremacy of North America - The Battle of the Restigouche.

Following appeals from local groups and named "L'association 47 de Saint-Simon", an association interested to see their historical heritage developed for the tourist industry and preserved for the enrichment of the cultural identify of the local community, and, the other, the committee for the "Festival des Coques", two related archaeological investigations were undertaken at Saint-Simon by the Archaeology Branch from the New Brunswick Department of Historical and Cultural Resources. The first was a test excavation program performed at specific locations and aimed at recovering any physical remains pertaining to the historical event refered to above. The result of this project were published in the New Brunswick Historical and Cultural Resources Manuscript in Archaeology No. 6 entitled "1983 Archaeological Investigations in Saint-Simon" by Patricia Allen (1984). The second, which is the object of this report, was the survey of the shores of "Baie de Saintnt-Simon Nord" for an inventory of it's historic, as well as prehistoric, archaeological resources.

## PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

This research focuses on the north branch of a forked bay located in northeastern New Brunswick. The "Baie de Saint-Simon" is located approximately 6 km west of the town of Shippagan and 6 km due south of the community of Lower Caraquet. The North Branch of this bay has an east-west long axis. The South Branch has a north-south axis and is joined to its' North Branch at what is called Saint Simon Inlet. This inlet opens into the Baie de Shippagan. The North Branch of the Baie de Saint-Simon measures approximately 5 km long and is 1 km wide.

There are several small streams which enter this bay, but the only two of significance are: The Saint-Simon River, largest of the two, which pours in from the northwest, and the Rivière Brideau which flows in at the southwest corner.

The land surrounding the bay is relatively even and of low relief. The shoreline has a gentle gradient except on the south shore and part of the east end where 1 to 2 m erosional banks of unconsolidated material skirts the bay. The highest points along the shore are found at the east end and at "Pointe des Pins" on the south side, where a recent gravel quarry has scarred the bank to a height of 5 to 6 m.

Bedrock outcrops are rarely present in the erosional escarpment, but were found inconsistently in the form of shallow ledges by the waters edge. They consist mostly of sandstone and shale beds. Saint-Simon Bay geology is tied to the relatively homogenous geology of northeastern New Brunswick. Here Pleistocene glacial gravel tills and Champlain Submergence clay and sand deposits are underlain by an estimated 215 m thick beds of shale, sandstone and fine conglomerate known as the Clifton Formation of Pennsylvanian

age, approximately 325 million years old (Alcock 1935, Bell 1962, Gilluly, Waters & Woodford, 1968). Soil consists of sandy to clay loam overlaying glacial till (Alcock 1935, Rowe 1972). Salt water marshland are found in the small stream and rivers estuaries, as well as on most of the north side of the Bay. Erosion to the bay shoreline appears most extensive on the south side, more exposed to fall and spring northern winds. This was made apparent by the crumbling shore banks found on the south side, and supported by accounts from local residents who witness a staggering loss of their bay frontage land to erosion during their lifetime. Damage by the same means seems less extensive on the unpopulated north side due to less elevation of waterfront land and exposure. Submergence was however in evidence.

This area falls within the eastern lowland section of the Acadian Forest Region. Rowe, in his Forest Regions of Canada (1972), describes the northern coastal part of this section as being represented for the most part by black and white spruce, tamarack and white cedar, and to a lesser extend by grey and white birch and trembling aspen. This was observed to be a fairly accurate description of the forest representation around Saint-Simon Bay.

Large portions of land on the south side of the bay has been cleared by logging or for agriculture. Farming appears to be restricted mostly to hay harvesting and domestic gardening. Commercial agriculture or mixed farming is either on a relatively small scale or not present around the bay area, but is found at a relatively short distance inland at Evangeline and in the Pokemouche River Valley.

Fishing seems to be the primary industry in Saint-Simon. A newly expanded federal wharf is located on the south side of North Saint-Simon Bay, which provides mooring to a number of small fishing crafts. During the course of this survey, local residents were observed digging for clams at low tide. Mussels

are also present but were not seen to be collected during the short time we were in this area. The crew also met with a gentleman from Saint-Simon who operates a commercial oyster farm in the bay.

The modern community of Saint-Simon is concentrated at the southwest shores of the bay. It's commercial centre and its' church are both located just east of Rivière Brideau.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The first human occupants of the Baie de Saint-Simon Nord were, without question, the Indian, although supportive prehistoric archaeological records are heretofore lacking for this particular bay. However, prehistoric sites have been discovered in the "Baie de Shippagan" (Ganong 1946, Allen et Turnbull, 1977), and one has even been found at the mouth of the "Baie de Saint-Simon-Sud" (Allen et Turnbull, 1977). The establishment of a religious mission, at Miscou in 1635, for the conversion of the Indians of the region, firmly established their presence in the area in early historic times (Ganong 1946, Dragon 1973).

Likewise, early historical records concerning the "Baie de Saint-Simon" (Nord et Sud) proper appears altogether nonexistent prior to the middle of the 18th century. These bays, like the bays of Lamèque and "Petite-Lamèque" are offshoots of the larger "Baie de Shippagan" and were probably reckon by the Europeans as being integral parts of the latter. Be that as it may, early accounts of European activities in this large Shippegan estuary are still both chronologically sporadic and scant; at least until well into the first half of the 18th century. Miscou Harbour, only 10 km to the northeast, seems to be occupying the geographical niche of prominence in the economic, social, and military affairs of northeastern New

Brunswick for the most part of the 17th century. Still let us consider what early records that do exist for the Baie de Shippagan, which would point to a potentially early European presence in the Shippegan-Saint-Simon area. The first documented European presence near the Baie de Shippegan is Jacques Cartier in 1534 who skirted the Gulf of St. Lawrence southern coast up to Miscou and entered into "Baie de Chaleur" in his search for a sea route to China. Thus sailing in front of both the south and north entrances to the bay (Ganong 1946:71). He was followed shortly after by fisherman who came to fish the gulf's plentiful banks and hunt the larger sea mammal herds. Evidence of such early commerical expeditions was recently discovered by archaeologists at Red Bay, on the Labrador coast. It consists of a whaling station of Spanish Basque origin, excavated by Dr. James Tuck from Memorial in St. John's, Newfoundland, and dating back to the 1570's (Tuck, pers. comm. 1983). A relatively large number of Basque ships are reported near Miscou by Champlain in the early part of the 17th century (Trudel 1966:300). Nicholas Denys in his "Description géographique et historique des costes de l'Amérique, septentrionale avec l'histoire naturelle du pais" published in 1672, writes about fishermen using Shippegan harbour to take their catch on land for drying (Ganong, 1946:72).

The first mention of the name Shippegan, although spelled differently, is found in a letter dated 1656 from a Capuchin missionary to his superiors recommending that a settlement be established at Point Chibaguen (Ganong 1946:72). Following these early mentions and until the middle of the 18th century the only few references to Shippegan are found almost solely on cartographers maps.

In 1760-61 happens the incident which singles out the "Baie de Saint-Simon" and gives it it's present name. According to historical records, a 35 ton armed French vessel, believed to

be an Acadian privateer schooner, captured an English ship on the coast of Gaspé, but was later pursued by an English frigate which forced the smaller Acadian vessel to take refuge in Shippegan harbour where she ran aground. This event is related by M. Mazagier, acting Commissary to the French minister in a report dated December 4, 1760, which read:

"Les Acadiens armèrent aussi une goélette, 47 hommes formaient son équipage. Au commencement d'octobre ils firent à la vue de Gaspé une bonne prise. Ils furent poursuivis par une frégate qui leur fit échouer leur bâtiment. Ils se battirent vigoureusement à terre, et menèrent le tout à Chipagan ou ils étaient encore à la capitulation." (Ganong 1948:15).

Although the records does not confirm in an absolute manner who the commander of this vessel was, it is locally believed that it was under the command of a French officer with the rank of Captain named Saint-Simon. Thus originates the name given to the small bay. Captain Saint-Simon and his crew spent that winter of 1760-61 at this location. The next summer he is believed to have made his way back to France. Some of his crew subsequently settled at Lower Caraquet and later at Saint-Simon and are the ancestors to the modern inhabitants. The exact location of the wintering site has long been known, by local tradition, to be on the south side of the Baie de Saint-Simon Nord just west of "Pointe aux Bouleaux". This is supported by artifacts found at that location from the time it was first cleared by settlers to recent times (Ganong 1948).

## PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

No archaeological research either by amateurs or professionals is reported prior to this summer for the "Baie de Saint-Simon-Nord". The emplacement believed to be Captain Saint-Simon's wintering camp was visited by Ganong in 1904, but he does not report conducting excavation work there (Ganong 1948). Collecting of relics was performed by local residents at this site. However it was conducted in concurrence with daily working of the land such as tillage and gardening and not in a systematic fashion.

Archaeological investigations were, however, undertaken in the nearby areas of the "Acadian Peninsula". In 1968, a survey of the "Baie de Chaleur" south shore was conducted from the mouth of the Restigouche River to Miscou Island, by Charles Martyn, then under contract by the Community Improvement Corporation of New Brunswick and the Historical Resources Administration (now New Brunswick Department of Historical and Cultural Resources). He also surveyed a section of the nearby Pokemouche River where he identified 15 prehistoric locations. This was the only positive results he obtained in the peninsula (Martyn 1968). In 1970 a survey of the coastal region from Burnt Church to Shippegan Harbour was conducted by Judy Robert and David Keenlyside for the National Museum of Man. A relatively large number of sites were recorded in the Tabusintac, Tracadie and Pokemouche River estuaries (Keenlyside 1970, Keenlyside et Keenlyside 1976). The two surveys, mentioned above, were solely for locating prehistoric locations. In 1971 a survey which focused on historical resources locations was conducted on the islands of Miscou, Lamèque and Taylor by Patricia Allen of the New Brunswick Department of Historical and Cultural Resources, Archaeology Branch. A number of locations of both historic and prehistoric significance were recorded in the "Baie de Shippegan", with one of the latter being located on the east side of the mouth of "Baie de Saint-Simon-Sud" (Allen et Turnbull 1977).

## METHODOLOGY

The author assisted by three university students conducted the survey on the 28 and 29 of June 1983. A section of approximately 2 km around "Pointe aux Bouleaux" had been examined on June the 14, 1983. A small aircraft was used to do a preliminary examination of the shore features from the air. A dodge van was used to access various locations along the shore. Crew members in teams of two surveyed on foot all the shores of "Baie de Saint-Simon-Nord", from the mouth of "Baie de Saint-Simon-Sud" just opposite Munro Island where it is closest to the mainland, to the mouth of "Petite Passe" opposite Pokesudie Island and immediately south of "Petit ile" (See Fig. 1). Sites found were recorded on Maritime Archaeological Resources Inventory forms (Davis & Christianson 1981) formatted to allow a polaroid snapshot of the site to be pasted on. Colour slides were also taken with a 35 mm camera. Subsurface testing was to be performed at promising locations after securing permission from the owner(s). Some locations, where only a few historic ceramic sherds were present on the beach with no recognizable shore provenience, were only given a temporary "isolated find" number until they could be more closely examined at the base camp to be determined if they were old enough for the location to be assigned a resource number.

## SITE DESCRIPTIONS

### CkDf28

This site is located at the east end of the bay. A large concentration of historic material lay scattered a few meters from the water's edge amidst swamp grass. The Saint-Simon cemetery is approximately 30 m to the northwest from this location. One square shanked iron spike or nail and a number of representative ceramic sherds were collected. All dated from 19th to 20th century (Reid 1984).

## CkDell

Ceramic concentration found on the shore of "Ruisseau de la Chaloupe" at the northeast extremity of "Baie de Saint-Simon-Nord. To the north of a small road that links the beach to Morais Road. A sample of the ceramic sherds found were collected and given a date range of early to late 19th century (Reid 1984).

## SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

Table 1 summarizes the data recorded about the sites found during the reconnaissance. The age range for each site, as determined through artifact analysis, is summarized in Table 2. Only two locations were recorded in the field as resources. Four more locations, all isolated beach finds, were not deemed to represent enough data or the material found were not estimated, in the field, to be old enough to justify their classification as resources. Later analysis of the material collected at these four locations dated them no earlier than 19th century (Reid 1984). No test excavations was performed at any of these locations. No prehistoric sites were found during the course of this survey.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the results of this preliminary study, it would appear that evidences of pre-nineteen century establishments other than the Capitaine Saint-Simon site are not present on the shores of the "Baie de Saint-Simon Nord". The two sites recorded are evidently not of the antiquity hoped for when they were found. Two explanations would account for this. First, that if early European activities did take place on these shores, they were of a superficial nature and did not leave enduring traces. Second, that remains early European

activities, even if they were of a substantial nature, were by coastal erosion. Which of these is correct - one might be at odds to ascertain. One thing which is for sure is that erosion on the bay's shore, like in all coast areas in the Maritime Provinces, is very active today, at eating away coastal land as it has been for the past 5000 years (Grant 1975). This would have caused the destruction of any sites, like for example a late 16th - early 17th century Basque seasonal fish drying installations and associated shelters built close to the shore, within a 100 year of it having been abandoned. Some of these cultural remains might have survived buried in the shallow-muddy bottoms beyond the low tide line which still makes the discovery of such location, using our present surveying techniques and the equipment presently available, a matter of luck.

Consequently, this author feels that future attempts at locating new archaeological sites, on dry land around the "Baie de Saint-Simon-Nord" would be vain. However, that is not to say that sites might not exist in the bay. In the course of this project the survey crew observed divers in scuba gear diving at the location where Capitaine Saint-Simon's ship is said to lay. We were told that remains of the ship could still be seen on the bottom. Local residents also told us that two other wrecks were located in or near the Bay. An underwater archaeological survey might prove itself more fruitful than this project had hoped to be.

## GRANDE PLAINE ON MISCOU ISLAND

In 1906, William F. Ganong published a report in the Bulletin of the Natural History Society of New Brunswick entitled "On Semi-Fossil Walrus Bones from the Miscou and Elsewhere in New Brunswick". He wrote about the large amounts of walrus bones he found at the "Grand Plaine" on Miscou Island and from which he collected representative specimens for the Natural History Society Museum. He also stated that most skulls had what appeared like bullet holes in them, and butchering marks were present on lots of other skeletal material. At the time, Ganong was reporting his findings on the walrus remains in Miscou, the animal had been extinct from the New Brunswick coast for close to a century.

This project's aim was to try to relocate some of these large mammal remains and other vestiges which might pertain to the killing and processing of walrus herds on "Grande Plaine" and evaluate this location as a possible archaeological resource.

### PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

"Grande Plaine" is located on the northwestern corner of Miscou Island (Fig. 1), an approximate 78 sq. km island which forms the northeastern tip of New Brunswick. The plains roughly covers an elevated area of approximately 3.5 sq. km of grassed and sparsely wooded sand dunes. It is a little more than 1 km at it's widest part and runs in a north-south fashion for approximately 5 km. It is bordered to the west and north by the waters of the "Baie de Chaleur" where it meets the Gulf of St. Lawrence. To the east of the island's upland and to the south is the boggy open peat covered area called the "Great Barren".

The topography of the plains is relatively low and consists of long parallel sand dunes with a north-south long axis and in between are narrow swales (Fig. 4). The soil formation appears non-existent even in the more densely wooded east side and is substituted by fine light gray brown which closely resemble the sand which forms the bordering beaches.

While no rock outcrop or geological deposits other than sand is visible on the "Grande Plaine", it's subsurface geology belong to the same classification which includes the coastal region of the "Baie de Chaleur", from Bathurst Harbour to Miscou Island. It is estimated to be 215 m thick beds of approximately 325 million years old shale, sandstone and fine conglomerate deposits known as the Clifton Formation, a Pennsylvanian related strata of the Carboniferous system (Alcock 1935, Bell 1962, Gilluly, Waters & Woodford 1968).

The vegetation of the western expanse of this study area consists of almost exclusively sand dune grass. The grassland area is almost 0.5 km wide at it's widest place. As one moves eastward long north-south, avenues of young tree stands occurs separated by open swales. These stands grows older and denser as the wooded upland is reached. The trees observed to stand in this area are the same as those expected for this region as described in Forest Region of Canada (Rowe 1972). Black and white spruce, tamarack and white cedar comprise the major portion of the native tree population while grey and white birch and trembling aspen complement to a less extend the forest makeup. Blue-green juniper and various species of mosses covered the ground in the wooded area.

At the time of this survey, no permanent or seasonal dwelling were found on the plains. Human settlement on Miscou Island are almost all exclusively located on the island's upland. A

small number of "cart track" roads transect the "Grande Plaine". Some are abandoned and overgrown, others are still cleared and usable by four-wheel driven vehicles. Small scale logging, probably for domestic firewood, was in evidence in the more densely wooded areas.

One final note on the physical geography of the "Grande Plaine" concerns its very nature. It would appear, as Ganong noted in 1906, that the plain is formed by a series of parallel ancient beaches with the oldest along the island's upland on the east side and the youngest being the present "Baie de Chaleur" beach. Erosion did not appear to be at work on these shores except to the northern extremity starting a little to the west of Northwest Miscou Point. Here the tip of the parallel sand dunes or ancient beaches are truncated by sea action. Recently deposited driftwood can be seen, at a fair distance inland, in the swale between the dunes. Trees are actively being washed out to sea at this location also.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prior to this survey, archaeological evidence of prehistoric occupation on Miscou Island was scarce (Allen et Turnbull 1977). Nevertheless, prehistorically, their presence on the island is unquestionably accepted as it was recorded very early in the colonial period and was important enough to warrant the establishment of a religious mission in 1635 for their conversion to Christianity (Ganong 1946, Dragon 1973).

The first recorded European to set eyes on Miscou was Jacques Cartier and his crew as they rounded northwest Miscou Point, which Cartier named "Cape d'Espérance" for the hope he had of finding at the western extremity of "Baie de Chaleur" a route to China. This was in 1534 (Ganong 1946). The history of Miscou Island from the early explorations to the present is

both rich and colourful. Miscou Harbour played a role, for the most part of the 17th century, as a major European religious, commerical and military centre in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Ganong 1946, Dragon 1973, Trudel 1966). Consequently, Miscou and more specifically the area surrounding it's harbour has been the focus of historical studies and publications which are readily available. Therefore we will not elaborate more on it, but we will concentrate on aspects which may concern the "Grande Plaine" or pertain to the commercial exploitations of the walrus (or sea cows as they were also called) on it's shores.

Soon after Cartier's voyages, there appears, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Basque fishing and whale hunting expeditions. Evidence to this effect was only recently discovered by Red Bay on the Labrador coast by archaeologists following leads, heretofore, unstudied archival sources.

Excavation, lead by Dr. James Tuck of Memorial University in Newfoundland, revealed a multi-seasonal occupation site containing artifacts and dwellings remains of Spanish origin, dating back to the 1570's. Analysis of the artifacts and features found indicates that the site was well used a whale hunting and processing station. Large stone hearths had been erected to melt the whale fat into oil (Tuck, pers. comm. 1983). Walrus was also valued for it's oil and has been commercially exploited for such a purpose in historic times (Warburton 1923). Could the walrus herds at "Grande Plaine" on Miscou, have been subjected to comparatively early commercial exploitation? Champlain reports at least eleven Basque ships at Miscou in 1924 (Trudel 1966:300).

The first specific mention of the commercial hunting of walrus at "Grande Plaine" on Miscou Island does not appear in the records until after the middle of the 18th century (Finlay 1762). It's extinction from this coast is reported less than 50 years later at the turn of the 19th century (Ganong 1906:1946).

## PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

In reference to the walrus bones site of "Grande Plaine" the only previous recorded investigations prior to this project is Ganong's 1904 examination (1906). However the crew found what appears to be an unfilled archaeological test excavation in a wooded part of the plain. The unit measured exactly 6.0 x 8.0 ft with it's long axis oriented east-west. The walls straight and perfectly vertical and all roots had been clipped off. The back dirt, which had been carefully put along one side, was not vegetated. Therefore, the excavation unit, which seems to be the work of professional investigator(s), was also recent, dug within the last five years by our estimation. One of the land owners of "Grande Plaine" told this author that a group, which he believed to be American, had asked him for permission to trespass on his land to look for walrus bones. This, he told us, was two or three summers ago.

As for previous archaeological work on Miscou Island in general, there was some research done in 1924, for historic material done around Miscou Harbour by Father Alfred J. Trudel (Trudel n.d.). Also two surveys of the coast around the island. One prehistorically oriented by Charles Martyn in 1968 (Martyn 1968), and other primarily historic in orientation performed by Patricia Allen in 1976 (Allen et Turnbull 1977).

## METHODOLOGY

This investigation was carried out by the author, assisted by two university students, from July 11 to August 9, 1983. A dodge van was used to ferry personnel and equipment between the base camp, established initially on Lamèque Island, and later at the Miscou Centre camping ground, and the study area. An aerial reconnaissance of the area had been performed, before ground survey went underway using a single engine Cessna

airplane. The entire survey was done on foot. The area surveyed is shown in Figure 5. The narrow cart road, which roughly dissects the areas in a north-south (True North) fashion for approximately 2 km, was used to divide the research area into an east section and a west section. A north section lay north of another cart road which runs east-west and onto which the north-south cart road perpendicularly joints. This north section extended to northwest Miscou Point and included the marshy circumference of Frye Lake. Crew members, starting approximately 20 m apart along the cart road surveyed each section by walking in parallel lines (transects) perpendicular to the cart road for 300 to 400 meters into the thick underbrush. Because of the size of the area, the thick underbrush, and the lack of outstanding natural or man-made reference points, all distances exceeding a few meters, were estimated either by pacing or by visual reckoning. Compasses were used to keep each crew member in parallel lines. Shallow shovel testing was done at random where undergrowth permitted. Contact between members of the crew was maintained at all times using two-way radios. A long north-south swampy swale located between 200 to 300 meters east of the north-south cart road was established as the eastern boundary of the east section. A line of dense alders, running between the edge of the wooded area and the open sand dunes, was used as the western boundary of the west section. The shores around northwest Miscou Point was, evidently, the northern boundary of the north section, while route #113 made for it's eastern boundary. After reaching the boundaries in parallel lines, the research team would move parallel to the cart road toward the yet unsurveyed end of the section and set themselves again approximately 20 m apart at approximately 20 m from the last surveyed transect line and start the return trip, in parallel courses, to the cart road (Fig. 5). The operation was repeated until the section was completely surveyed.

Controlled subsurface testing, other than random shovel tests done during the walking survey, was performed, after securing landowner's permission, in the area estimated to be on or as near as possible to the location Ganong plotted on his 1906 sketch map (Fig. 6) as being the area of high walrus bone concentration. Other promising locations were also tested. These controlled test units were 1 x 1 meter in size and were taken down to water level.

If and when the sites were found in the course of this survey, they were recorded on Maritime Archaeological Resource Inventory forms (Davis and Christianson 1981), formatted to allow space for a polaroid snapshot of the location and it's front page. The site was also photographed using a 35 mm camera for archival colour transparencies. Surface collecting and subsurface testing, if necessary, were performed at the site once it had been recorded.

#### SITE DESCRIPTIONS

##### DaDd1

This site is a prehistoric resource location found at the bottom of a sand blowout (Fig. 7) approximately 70 m west of Frye Lake and 90 to 100 m south of Northwest Miscou Point. The site was named the Vibert Site for the present owner of the section of "Grande Plaine" it is located on; Mr. Lewis Vibert. It consists of firecracked rocks, flakes and burnt bone fragments which laid on the sandy surface (Fig. 8), and occupying a roughly oval shaped area of 2 x 1.3 m (Fig. 9). A 1 x 1 m test excavation was sunk in the approximately 8 x 6 m "blowout", approximately 4.1 m southwest of the southern extremity of the oval shaped feature. A few firecracked rocks and some scattered fragments of charcoal were found but no

other cultural material was encountered. The stratigraphic profile revealed sand layers exhibiting discrete difference from each other in leaching and coarseness. Water table was encountered at 80 cm of depth below surface.

A few firecracked rocks were found in a similar nearly "sand blowout" or "sand bowls" as they might also be called, but these were only one or two fragments with no associated cultural debris other than recent refuse. Erosion, by wind action, appears to be the sole threat, at the present, to DaDdl.

#### SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

Table #1 resumes the information recorded for the only archaeological site registered during this survey. The site appears to have a prehistoric origin. A test unit sunk at this location failed to reveal any subsurface cultural horizon.

No walrus skeletal remains were found during the course of this survey. Neither was any cultural vestiges of walrus hunting or commercial exploitation encountered. Four controlled test units were sunk during our search. Three in the general area where the walrus bones had been report and one west of the southern tip of Frye Lake where a small round hole in the ground was found (Fig. 5). All four, as well as all random shovel tests performed, delivered negative results.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In his 1906 report on the walrus bones at Miscou, Ganong wrote:

"The bones lie partly imbedded in sand, a very poor material for their preservation, and so far are they decayed that it will be now only a few years before they will have crumbled away; and then this last visible testimony of the former occurrence here of the walrus will have vanished forever."

(Ganong 1906:463)

A prophetic assessment which we now appreciate for its unfortunate accuracy. In the course of the preparation and execution of this project many local residents, some of whom are in their 70's and 80's and have lived beside "Grande Plaine" all their lives, were interviewed concerning the walrus bones. None could remember ever seeing any on "Grande Plaine". Only one person, now aged over ninety years and living in the U.S.A., we were told by her younger brother, Mr. Harris Vibert of Miscou Point, remembers about the walrus bones and more specifically remembers when Ganong was camped and recording his findings on "Grande Plaine". The results of this survey tends to demonstrate that the walrus bones did not survived beneath the surface neither. Nor was any physical remains surface as artifacts which would pertain directly or indirectly to the killing of the walruses and the processing of their carcasses found. These artifacts and even small man-made structures might have existed and their remains still buried deep in the sand dunes. A soil resistivity survey or magnetometric survey could possibly reveal the presence of these aforementioned relics. However, due to the large area that would have to be covered, resulting in a highly expensive

operation, the cost of which is not warranted by the results of archival and archaeological research to date, these types of electronic surveys are not recommended at the present.

The prehistoric resource location found during this survey was an unexpected, albeit pleasant, surprise. None, until now, had been recorded on Miscou Island. Unfortunately, close investigation of the surrounding area and nearby subsurface test excavation failed to uncover more to the site than the relatively small hearth feature that lay on the surface. Solely based on it's size and nature, this feature would suggest a very short occupation by a small group of individuals. Findings more related components to this site in this area might offer a great opportunity to complement our knowledge of prehistoric coastal resources utilization for this region. A prospect that should warrant future professional work at this remote location in the future.



Table 1 Summary of Archaeological Sites Informations, Northeastern New Brunswick; Caraquet Island, Baie de Saint-Simon-Nord, and Grande Plaine on Miscou Island

| Site No. | Kind     | Primary(P)<br>or<br>Artefact<br>Location(AL) | Observed<br>Dimensions<br>L (m) W (m) A (sq.m) | Eroding | Modern<br>Distribution | Age         | Remarks                | Study<br>Area                    |
|----------|----------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| CkDf 17  | Domestic | P                                            | 100 30 3,000                                   | —       | x                      | Historic    | Surface Feature        | CARAQUET                         |
| CkDf 18  | Domestic | P                                            | 150 175 26,250                                 | x       | x                      | Historic    | Surface Feature        |                                  |
| CkDf 19  | —        | AL                                           | — — —                                          | x       | —                      | Historic    | Isolated Find          |                                  |
| CkDf 20  | Domestic | P                                            | 10.5 5 52.5                                    | x       | x                      | Historic    | Surface Feature        |                                  |
| CkDf 21  | Domestic | —                                            | 10.5 3.5 36.75                                 | x       | —                      | Historic    | Surface Feature        |                                  |
| CkDf 22  | Domestic | —                                            | 100 50 5,000                                   | x       | x                      | Historic    | Surface Feature        | ISLAND                           |
| CkDf 23  | Domestic | —                                            | 4 3.5 14                                       | x       | x                      | Historic    | Surface Feature        |                                  |
| CkDf 24  | —        | AL                                           | — — —                                          | x       | —                      | Prehistoric | Isolated Find          |                                  |
| CkDf 25  | —        | AL                                           | — — —                                          | x       | —                      | Historic    | Isolated Find          |                                  |
| CkDf 26  | —        | AL                                           | — — —                                          | x       | —                      | Historic    | Isolated Find          |                                  |
| CkDf 27  | —        | AL                                           | — — —                                          | x       | —                      | Historic    | Isolated Find          |                                  |
| CkDf 28  | Domestic | ?                                            | 50 20 1,000                                    | x       | —                      | Historic    | Artefact Concentration | Baie Saint-Simon-Nord            |
| CkDe 11  | Domestic | ?                                            | 100 15 1,500                                   | x       | —                      | Historic    | Artefact Concentration |                                  |
| DeDd 1   | Domestic | P                                            | 2.5 1.4 3.5                                    | x       | —                      | Prehistoric | Surface Feature        | Grande Plaine<br>(Miscou Island) |

x Yes, — Not Present or could not be determined.

Table 2. Date Summary for Historic Sites. As derived from  
historic artefacts analysis (from Reid 1984).

| Site No. | Date Range                                   | Study Area                |
|----------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| CkDf 17  | 19th to 20th century                         | CARAQUET                  |
| CkDf 18  | Predominantly mid 19th century<br>to present |                           |
| CkDf 19  | Mid to late 19th century                     |                           |
| CkDf 20  | Early 19th century                           | ISLAND                    |
| CkDf 25  | 20th century (?)                             |                           |
| CkDf 26  | 18th century                                 |                           |
| CkDf 27  | 20th century                                 |                           |
| CkDf 28  | 19th to 20th century                         | BAIE SAINT-<br>SIMON-NORD |
| CkDe 11  | Early to late 19th century                   |                           |

**FIGURE 1: Study Area and Site Location Map**



**NORTHEAST NEW BRUNSWICK  
1983 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

**RECONNAISSANCE ARCHEOLOGIQUE  
AU NORD-EST DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK 1983**

**STUDY AREA & SITE LOCATION MAP  
PLAN MONTRANT LES LIEUX DE RECHERCHES  
ET LA POSITION DES SITES**

STUDY AREA BOUNDARY  
LIMITES DES LIEUX DE RECHERCHES

SCALE 0 5 10 km ECHELLE

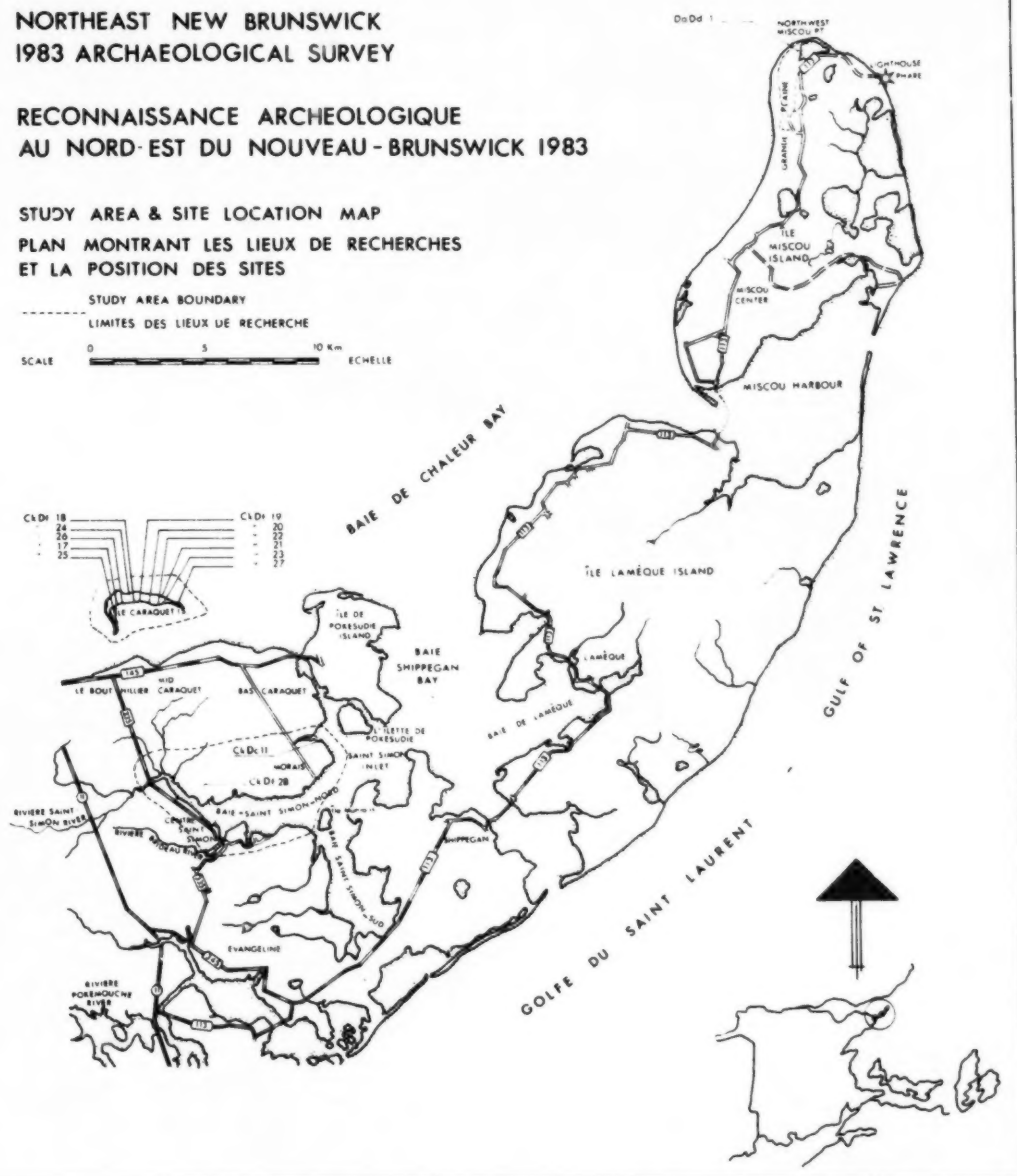


FIGURE 2: Aerial View of Caraquet Island



FIGURE 3: View of Part of the "Baie de Saint-Simon-Nord"



**FIGURE 4: Aerial View of the Northern Part of "Grande  
Plaine" on Miscou Island**

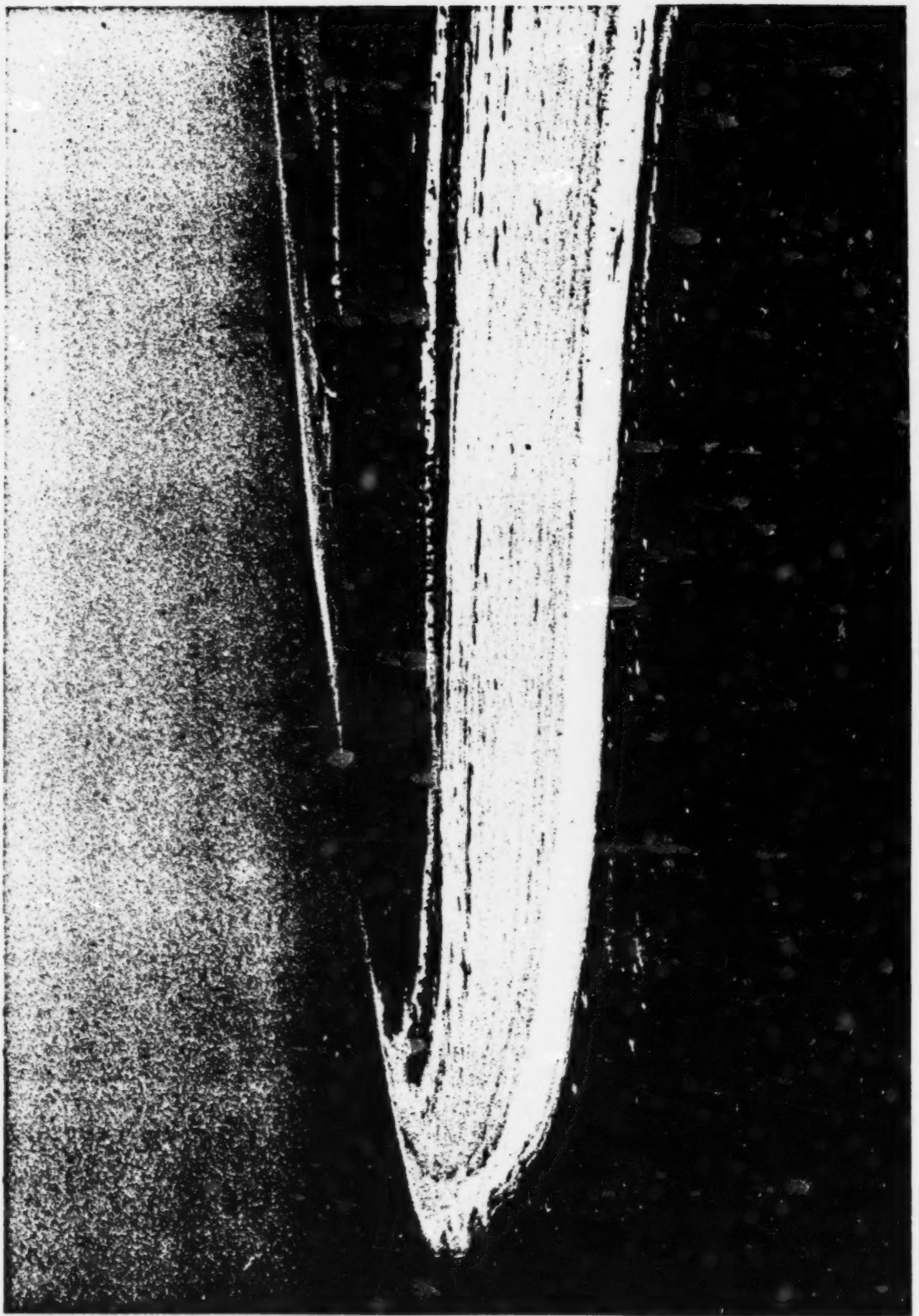


**FIGURE 5: Map of "Grande Plaine", Showing Survey Procedure**

# GRANDE PLAINE (MISCOU)

- STUDY AREA BOUNDARIES / LIMITES DES LIEUX DE RECHERCHES
- .... BOUNDARY BETWEEN HIGHLAND AND THE SAND DUNES OF GRANDE PLAINE / LIGNE DE DEMARCATIION ENTRE LES TERRES ELEVÉES ET LES DUNES DE SABLE DE LA GRANDE PLAINE
- BUILDING / ÉDIFICE
- BEACH / PLAGE
- WOODED AREA / AIRES BOISÉES
- MARSH / MARÉCHAGE

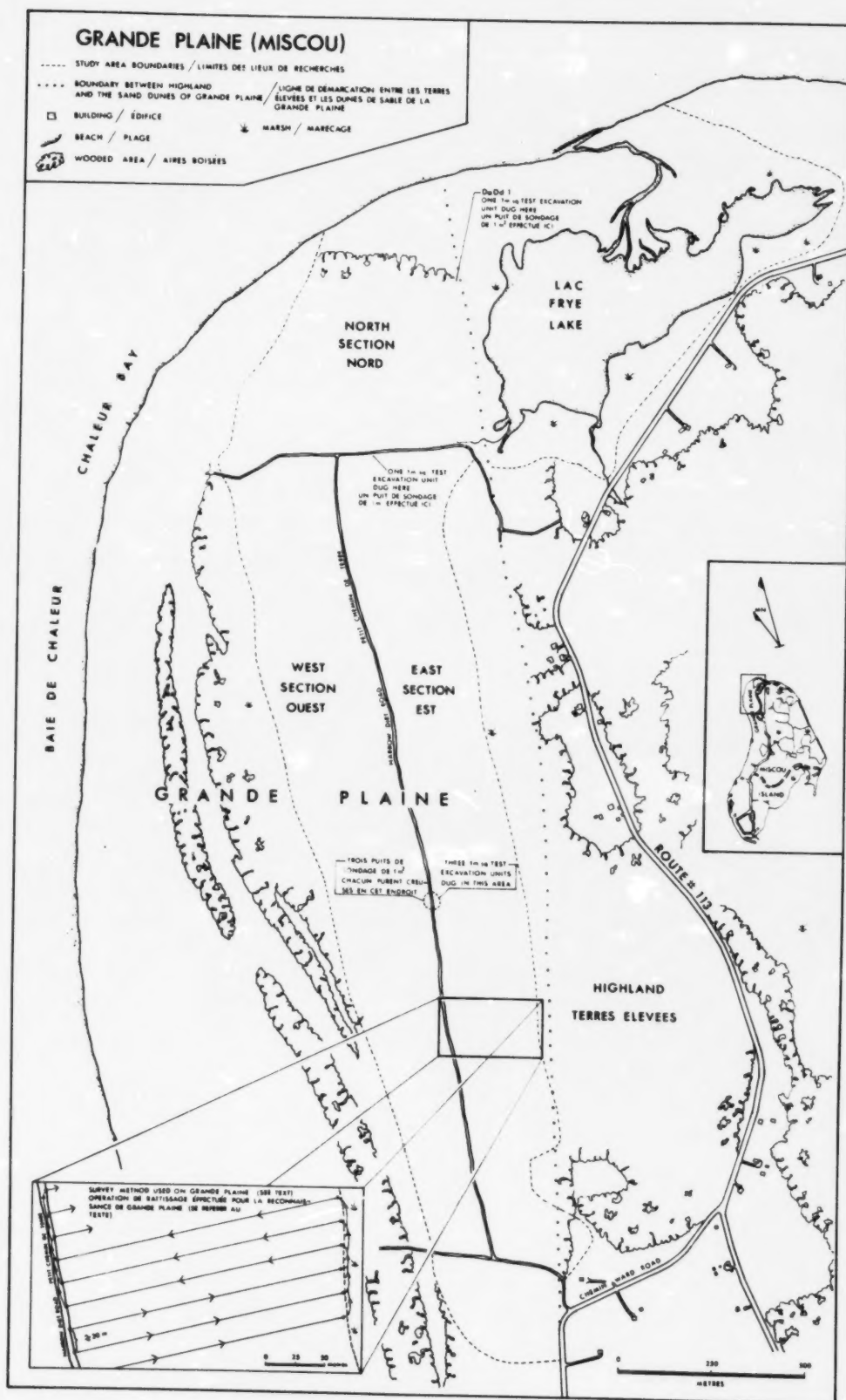


**FIGURE 6: Ganon's 1906 Map of "Grande Plaine", Showing  
location of Walrus Bone Concentration**

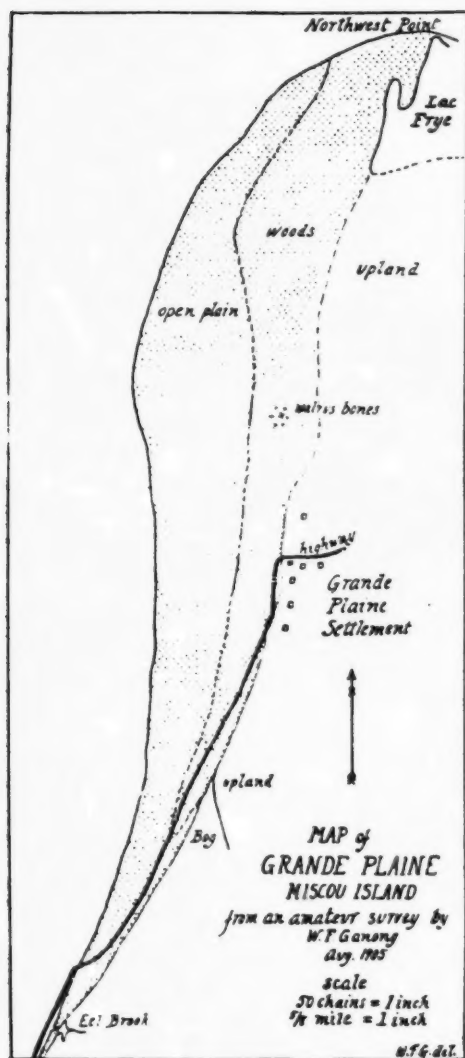


FIGURE 7: General View of DaDd 1



**FIGURE 8: Close-up View of Hearth Feature at DaDd 1**

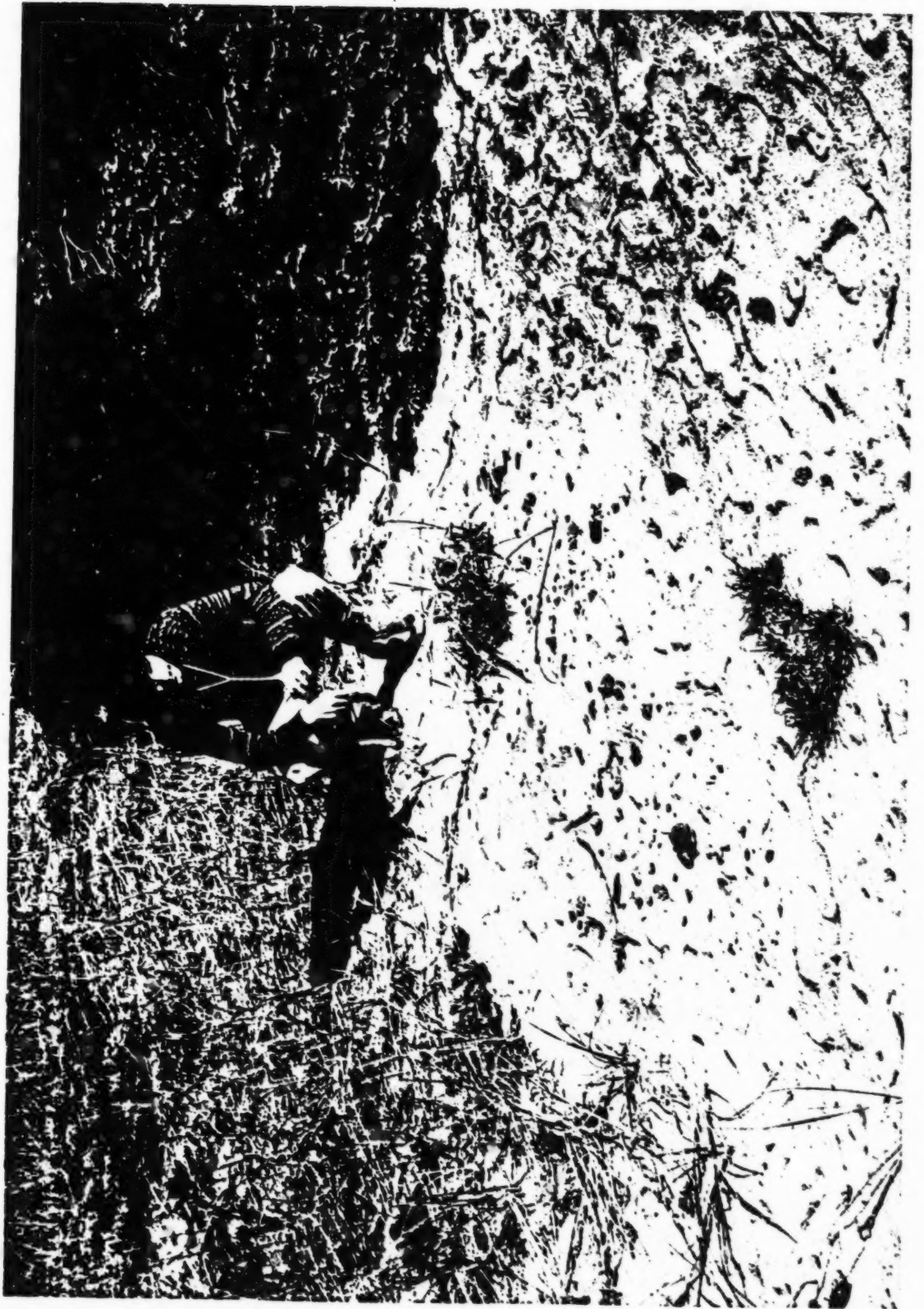
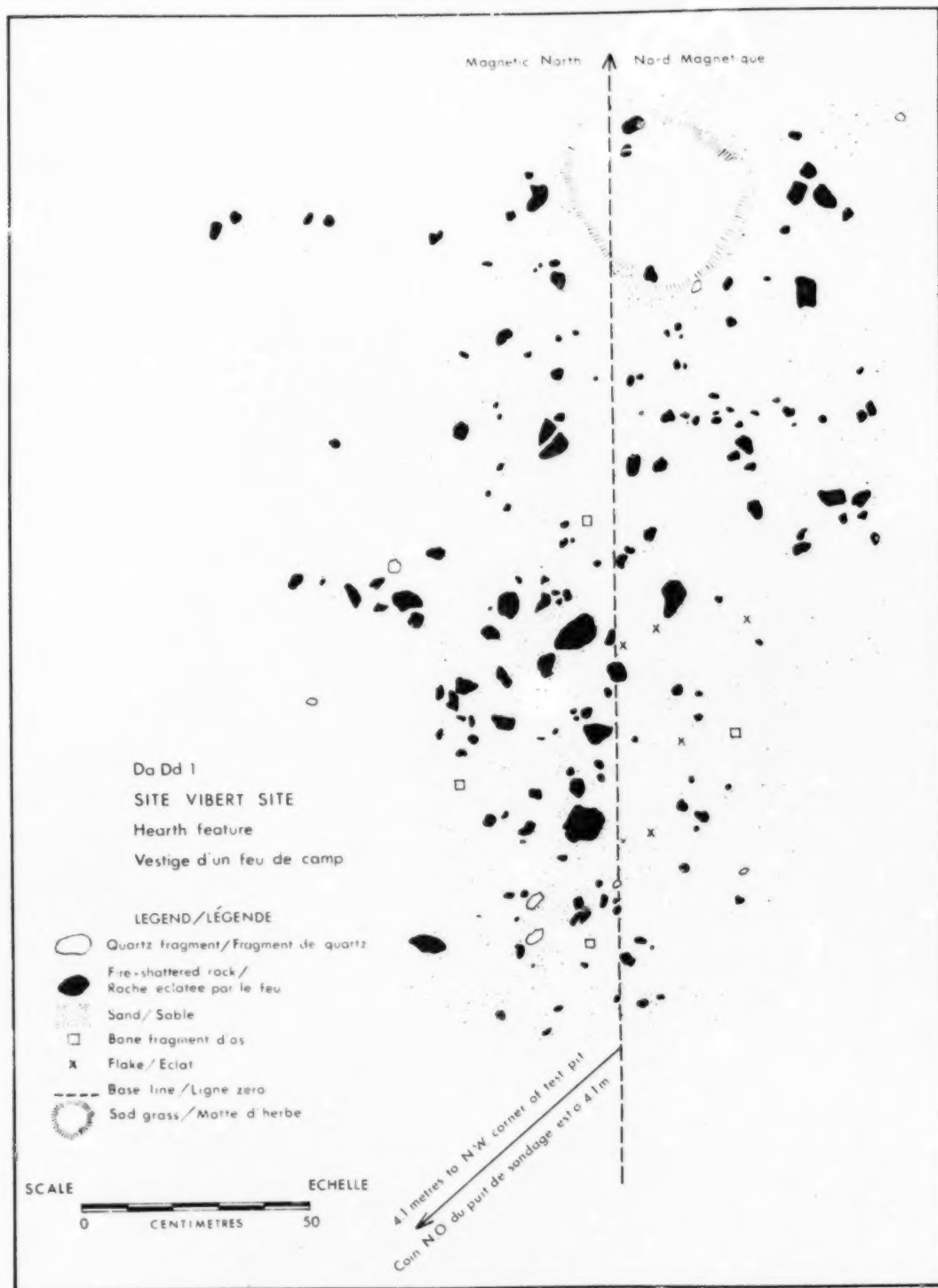


FIGURE 9: Plan of Hearth Feature at DaDd 1





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